

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 079886

FOR MATLOCK FROM GARRISON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OGEN

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

1. WE BELIEVE THAT IRMA BOBROVA'S CASE (MOSCOW 2493) WAS RESOLVED AND THAT SHE WENT TO ROME. IF WE ARE WRONG AND THE CASE IS STILL PENDING, PLEASE LET US KNOW.
2. THANKS FOR STATEMENT OF DISSIDENT CONTACTS/POUCHES, WHICH IS CLEAR AND SELF-EXPLANATORY. WE SEE NO REASON TO TINKER AND PLAN TO PASS IT ON WEDNESDAY AS EMBASSY STATEMENT OF POLICY.
3. FOR GOSNELL FROM MCCALL: CHANCES FOR A POSITIVE DECISION ON CREATING THE EAST BERLIN POSITION THIS SUMMER ARE SAID TO BE 60/40, WITH YOU AS TOP EUR CANDIDATE. ICCUSA JOB IS FILLED, WITH ANN GRIFFIN REPORTING APRIL 24.

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4. FOR PORTER FROM MCCALL: INDICATIONS WE GET ARE THAT THE NE AND FRENCH DESK JOBS HAVE BEEN FILLED. WE ARE STILL LOOKING FOR AN FSO-3 FOR MCGIFFERT'S STAFF AT DOD/ISA. WE DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT THE JOB, EXCEPT THAT HE WANTS A SOVIET SPECIALIST. UNLESS YOU HAVE SOMETHING ELSE COOKING, COULD WE CHECK OUT THE POSSIBILITY FOR YOU?

5. CARPENTER, WHO REPLACES WHITE IN KIEV THIS SUMMER, COULD USE A MONTHS EXTENSION AT FSI BUT IS NOT ELIGIBLE BECAUSE HIS POSITION (ADMIN 50-303) IS NOT LANGUAGE DESIGNATED. TO MAKE IT LANGUAGE DESIGNATED, YOU WOULD NEED TO COME IN WITH A PER CHANNEL MESSAGE GIVING RATIONALE FOR THE CHANGE. WITH EXTENSION CARPENTER WOULD PLAN ETA IN KIEV FIRST WEEK IN AUGUST.

6. WE ARE WORKING UP ETA'S FOR ALL SUMMER ASSIGNEES AND HOPE TO GET IT TO YOU SHORTLY.

7. ON THE QUESTION OF LEVERAGE ON HOUSING, WE WILL AGAIN GET PEOPLE TO EXAMINE THE POSSIBILITY OF DECLARING THE CONSTRUCTION SITE OFF-LIMITS, BUT EVEN IF WE ARE ABLE TO OVERCOME OBJECTIONS WE ARE NOT CONVINCED IT WILL HIT THE SOVIETS VERY HARD VERY SOON. WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE SOMETHING STRONGER UP OUR SLEEVE AND STILL THINK ACTION AGAINST SOVIET EMBASSY STAFFING BY MEANS OF VISA DENIALS WOULD BE FELT. WE WOULD HOLD BACK VISAS FOR NON-DIPS ON PERMANENT ASSIGN-

MENT, AND IF THEY RETALIATED BY HITTING OUR TDYERS THAT WOULD BE ESCALATION. WE SHOULD THEREFORE HAVE UP OUR SLEEVE A FURTHER RETALIATORY MEASURE SUCH AS REDUCING THEIR NON-DIPLOMATIC STAFF BY A CERTAIN PERCENTAGE. IF
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YOU SEE MERIT IN THIS SORT OF SCENARIO, A FRONT CHANNEL MESSAGE WOULD BE HELPFUL.

8. A RETURN MEETING FOR THE BERKELEY ORIENTALIST CONFERENCE HELD LAST MAY IS BEING ORGANIZED BY BERKELEY INSTITUTE OF INTL STUDIES. IT HAS BEEN PROPOSED TO SOVIET ACADEMY OF SCIENCES FOR THIS FALL IN MOSCOW--CONFIRMATION NOT YET RECEIVED. IN THIS CONNECTION, OUR AMBASSADOR TO SRI LANKA HAS BEEN INVITED BY BERTKELEY ORGANIZERS TO ATTEND THE MOSCOW MEET. (HE PARTICIPATED LAST YEAR BEFORE HE BECAME AN AMBASSADOR.) COLOMBO 1386 IS BEING REPEATED TO YOU, CONTAINING HIS REQUEST FOR DEPARTMENTAL APPROVAL. WE WILL NOT CLEAR OUT A RESPONSE TO COLUMBO UNTIL WE HAVE YOUR VIEWS AND RECOMMENDATION.

9. YOU WILL BE RECEIVING A MESSAGE ON THE DESIRES OF FEDERAL RAILWAY ADMINISTRATOR SULLIVAN TO VISIT USSR IN MAY, CITING INVITATION LAST JULY FROM KARENKO, DIRECTOR OF MOTIVE POWER IN MINRAIL. WE ARE NOT SURE OF CIRCUMSTANCES OF THIS INVITATION. FOR YOUR BACKGROUND, THERE WERE INTERNAL DIFFERENCES OVER AT DOT, WHERE CONCERN WAS EXPRESSED

THAT SULLIVAN VISIT WOULD "OVERLOAD THE CIRCUIT" AND DE-TRACT FROM BILATERAL AGREEMENT. AGREEMENT SECRETARIAT WOULD NOT WISH MINRAIL TO THINK THAT IT HAS OBLIGATION, OR WILL REAP BENEFIT, UNDER AGREEMENT. DOT OFFICIALLY, HOWEVER, ONLY MADE PRO FORMA REQUEST FOR FACILITATION AS CONVEYED IN SEPTEL. A DOT PROPOSAL TO ADD SULLIVAN TO THE LATE MAY RAILWAY DELEGATION WAS TURNED DOWN INTERNALLY AT DOT, BUT MIGHT STILL BE AN OPTION IF SOVIETS COUNTER-PROPOSE IT. COOPER

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